



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 393**

January Session, 2017

House Bill No. 7169

*House of Representatives, April 4, 2017*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING PSYCHOLOGY TECHNICIANS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-195aaa of the general statutes is repealed and  
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "psychology technician" means a person  
4 who (1) holds a bachelor's or graduate degree in psychology,  
5 psychometrics or another mental health field, and (2) has undergone  
6 not less than eighty hours of training provided by a psychologist  
7 licensed pursuant to chapter 383, including, but not limited to, (A) not  
8 less than four hours of education in professional ethics and best  
9 practices for the administration and scoring of objective psychological  
10 and neuropsychological tests, including, but not limited to, the  
11 American Psychological Association Ethical Principles of Psychologists  
12 and Code of Conduct and legal obligations pertaining to patient  
13 confidentiality and reporting any suspicion of abuse or neglect of a  
14 patient, (B) not less than sixteen hours of studying and mastering  
15 information from psychological and neuropsychological testing

16 manuals, (C) not less than twenty hours of direct observation of the  
17 administration and scoring of objective psychological and  
18 neuropsychological tests by the psychologist, and (D) not less than  
19 forty hours of administering and scoring objective psychological and  
20 neuropsychological tests in the presence of the psychologist.

21 (b) [The services provided by psychology technicians include the  
22 administration and scoring of] A psychology technician may score  
23 objective psychological or neuropsychological tests with specific,  
24 predetermined and manualized administrative procedures. The  
25 responsibilities of a psychology technician include, but are not limited  
26 to, [observing and describing the behavior of the patient taking the test  
27 and the patient's test responses] obtaining and documenting a patient's  
28 test responses according to such procedures, but shall not include  
29 evaluation, interpretation or other judgments concerning the patient or  
30 the patient's test responses.

31 (c) A psychology technician may provide objective psychological or  
32 neuropsychological testing services under the supervision and  
33 direction of a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383, provided:  
34 (1) The psychologist is satisfied as to the ability and competency of the  
35 psychology technician; (2) services provided are consistent with the  
36 health and welfare of the patient and in keeping with the practice of  
37 psychology; and (3) such services are provided under the oversight,  
38 control and direction of the psychologist, who shall remain in the  
39 facility where the psychology technician provides such services and be  
40 available to the psychology technician during the provision of such  
41 services.

42 (d) Each psychologist supervising or directing a psychology  
43 technician under subsection (c) of this section shall: (1) Verify that the  
44 psychology technician meets the requirements set forth in subsection  
45 (a) of this section prior to agreeing to supervise the psychology  
46 technician; (2) maintain documentation of such verification, including,  
47 but not limited to, the dates of completion of the educational and  
48 supervised work experience requirements; (3) make such

49 documentation available to the Department of Public Health upon  
50 request; and (4) supervise and direct not more than three psychology  
51 technicians who are providing testing services simultaneously.

52 [(d)] (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to the  
53 activities and services of a person who is enrolled in a [psychology  
54 technician educational program acceptable to the American  
55 Psychological Association] doctorate degree program in psychology  
56 approved under section 20-189 and providing psychological testing  
57 under the supervision of a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter  
58 383, provided such activities and services are incidental to the [course  
59 of study] program.

60 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to the  
61 activities and services of a person holding a certificate as a school  
62 psychologist or school psychological examiner that was granted by the  
63 State Board of Education.

64 [(e)] (g) A psychology technician shall not: (1) Select tests; (2)  
65 conduct intake assessments; (3) conduct clinical interviews, including,  
66 but not limited to, patient interviews and collateral interviews of  
67 relatives, friends of the patient or other professionals associated with  
68 the patient; (4) interpret patient data; (5) communicate test results or  
69 treatment recommendations to patients; or (6) administer tests in  
70 educational institutions.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2017	20-195aaa
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**PH**

*Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

This bill, which makes various changes to the law that allows psychology technicians to provide psychological testing, does not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Public Health or municipalities.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 7169*****AN ACT CONCERNING PSYCHOLOGY TECHNICIANS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes to the law that allows psychology technicians who meet specified qualifications to provide psychological testing services under a psychologist's supervision. The bill:

1. establishes certain requirements for the supervising psychologist, such as verifying the technician's credentials and remaining on-site while the technician is providing services;
2. specifically adds psychometrics to the qualifying fields for a technician's college degree;
3. modifies exemptions from this law, such as exempting psychology doctoral students under certain conditions; and
4. makes minor and technical changes, including clarifying the scope of a technician's allowable activities (§ 1(b)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2017

**PSYCHOLOGY TECHNICIANS*****Supervising Psychologist***

Existing law allows psychology technicians to provide services only under the supervision and direction of a psychologist. The bill requires the supervising psychologist to remain in the facility where the technician is providing services and be available to the technician during that time. It allows a psychologist to supervise a maximum of three technicians providing services at the same time.

The bill also requires a supervising psychologist to:

1. verify that the technician meets the qualifications under existing law and the bill, before agreeing to supervise him or her;
2. maintain documentation of this verification, including the dates when the technician completed the required educational and supervised work experience requirements; and
3. make this documentation available to the Department of Public Health upon request.

***Degree Requirement***

Current law requires a psychology technician to have a bachelor's or graduate degree in psychology or another mental health field. The bill specifies that a technician may have a degree in psychometrics (the science of measuring mental capacities and thought processes, such as through testing).

As under existing law, a psychology technician must also complete at least 80 hours of specified training conducted by a licensed psychologist.

***Exemptions***

The current psychology technician law exempts from its provisions individuals enrolled in a psychology technician educational program acceptable to the American Psychological Association if their activities are incidental to the course of study. The bill eliminates this exemption.

Instead, it exempts individuals enrolled in a psychology doctorate program approved by the state Board of Examiners of Psychologists if providing psychological testing under a psychologist's supervision and the activities are incidental to the degree program.

The bill also exempts school psychologists and school psychological examiners certified as such by the State Board of Education. Existing law already prohibits psychology technicians from administering tests in educational institutions.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea     26     Nay   0     (03/22/2017)